

Message Text

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67

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01

COME-00 FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-03 STR-01

TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01 IO-10 /111 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8168

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 271

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, ENRG

SUBJECT: SIMONET'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

A) STATE 8375 B) EC BRUSSELS 215 (NOTAL) C) STATE 9402

D) EC BRUSSELS 7919

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET HOPES THE COMMISSION CAN HAVE CLOSER CONTACT WITH US ENERGY POLICY-MAKERS, INCLUDING ADVANCE NOTICE OF US POSITIONS IN THE IEA. END SUMMARY

2. AMBASSADOR GREENWALD MET WITH SIMONET ON JANUARY 22 FOR A DISCUSSION OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS AND SOMONET'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON (REFTEL B). IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETING, AMBASSADOR GREENWALD EXPANDED ON THE PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE (REFTEL A).

3. AMBASSADOR GREENWALD RECALLED THAT DURING SIMONET'S DISCUSSION JANUARY 9 WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY PARSKY, SIMONET HAD UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO ATTAINING
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THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE EC COHESION ON ENERGY MATTERS AND SAID HE

PLANNED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN WASHINGTON (JANUARY 27-29). SIMONET SAID THE PROBLEM OF PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY POLICY INTERNALLY IN THE EC AND INTERNATIONALLY IN THE IEA STILL PLAGUED THE COMMUNITY. THE INABILITY OF THE NINE TO TAKE COMMON POSITIONS IN THE IEA WAS BEING PLAYED UP IN THE PRESS WITH UNFRIENDLY OVERTONES ABOUT "DEPENDENCE" ON THE US. SOME MEMBER STATES APPARENTLY PREFERRED TO TAKE POLICY POSITIONS IN THE IEA WHILE OTHERS PRESSED FOR POSITIONS IN THE EC TO BE DEVELOPED FIRST. ON THE OTHER HAND, NO ONE WANTED TO HOLD UP PROGRESS IN THE IEA OR TO GIVE ONE MEMBER STATE A VETO OVER SUCH PROGRESS. WHAT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO HIM BOTH TO MEET THE CRITICISM OF THE EC AND TO HELP DEVELOPMENT OF THE EC'S OWN ENERGY POLICY WOULD BE ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF US POSITIONS BEFORE THEY CAME UP IN THE IEA SO HE COULD WORK THEM INTO EC POSITIONS (WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE FRENCH). AT PRESENT THE COMMISSION LEARNS OF US PROPOSALS ONLY WHEN THEY ARE TABLED IN THE AGENCY. THIS HAS SEVERAL UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS THAT IT OFTEN PUTS THE COMMISSION IN THE POSITION OF SEEMING TO FOLLOW THE US LEAD. SIMONET SAID HE GOT CRITICAL FEEDBACK ON THIS, NOT ONLY FROM THE FRENCH BUT ALSO FROM HIS COMMISSION COLLEAGUES. THE POSSIBILITY OF EARLIER INFORMATION ON US POSITIONS WAS SOMETHING SIMONET SAID HE INTENDED TO RAISE IN WASHINGTON.

4. THE AMBASSADOR SAID ANY ADVANCE CONSULTATION WAS VALUABLE AND WE TRIED TO DO IT WHERE POSSIBLE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT A PRACTICAL PROBLEM WAS THAT OFTEN US POSITIONS WERE NOT FULLY COORDINATED AMONG THE INTERESTED AGENCIES UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE THE MEETINGS IN QUESTION AND THAT PRIOR CONSULTATION OR EVEN NOTIFICATION OF POSITIONS BECAME DIFFICULT. WITH RESPECT TO ANY CRITICISM THAT THE US WAS PUTTING ROAD BLOCKS IN THE WAY OF THE EC EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A COMMON ENERGY POSITION, THE AMBASSADOR DREW ON REFTEL C INDICATING OUR VIEW THAT CONCERTATION IN THE EC CONSTITUTED AN IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN THE FRENCH, THE OTHER EIGHT, AND THE AGENCY.

5. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED SIMONET ABOUT PRESS REPORTS THAT HE PLANNED TO GO TO KUWAIT TO RETURN THE VISIT OF OPEC SECRETARY GENERAL ATTIGA (REFTEL D). SIMONET REPLIED THAT THE TRIP HAD BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO ATTIGA'S ILL HEALTH. UNTIL THIS SITUATION WAS CLARIFIED AND ANOTHER DATE SET, HE HAD NO PLANS

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TO VISIT THE AREA. SIMONET STATED HE DID NOT INTEND TO GO INTO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS OF OIL PRICE AND SUPPLY WITH ATTIGA. HE AGREED ON THE SENSITIVITY OF CONTACTS WITH THE ARAB OIL PRODUCERS AND SAID HE WOULD MENTION THE POSSIBILITY OF A MID-EAST TRIP DURING HIS CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON. COMMENT: THIS IS SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE WITH THE INDICATIONS WE HAD EARLIER FROM A MEMBER OF SIMONET'S STAFF THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING A MORE AMBITIOUS

PROGRAM IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ACCORDING
TO THIS SOURCE, SIMONET HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION
DISCUSSING SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES INCLUDING OIL PRICE AND SUPPLY
WITH ATTIGA AND ALSO WITH CERTAIN OTHER MIDDLE EASTERN LEADERS.
THIS SOURCE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES
WOULD SIMONET EMBARK ON SUCH A COURSE WITHOUT CONSULTATION
WITH AND APPROVAL OF THE USG. END COMMENT GREENWALD

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